Road Map
To The Eternal City

Read these pages without misgivings.
You are not forced to agree
with everything written in here, if you think
that they are not correct.

Truth is not something that can be forced,
but is something that must be meditated upon.
Truth is also not something to be gained by power
or violence. Therefore truth must not be
maintained by violence,
but by argumentation and reasoning.

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May The Lord Guide You

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Does God Really Exist?

The above question is actually quite unreasonable. It is very much like someone who uses the *Windows* Operating System in his computer, asking whether Bill Gates really exist; or, a person who uses Apple products asking whether Steve Jobs really exist. Most people would agree that such would be foolish or ignorant questions. The products that these men have produced prove their existence.

Imagine if we are to question the existence of the person who created something exceedingly more advanced than *Windows* or *Apple* products. Even a gecko is more complex than any iPad or iPhone. If we magnify its feet thousands of times, we can see tiny suction cups that enable the gecko to walk upside down on the ceiling without falling. Man breathes with his lungs, and fish can absorb oxygen through its gills.

Irrefutably, the existence of heaven and earth proves the existence of a person of super genius and all-powerful, and He is the One who laid the foundation and created everything. Else, from where did this beautiful and complex universe come?

None of the planets encircling the sun, or any other planet, has condition anything like the Earth. Astronomers have searched far and wide through their telescopes, to other galaxies, for a place like Earth. They have not found any.

The God-haters are annoyed at the existence of God, especially because they do not want to submit to His moral standard. They are mad when they hear that they have to give an account of their sins. Therefore, they deny His existence and come up with strange hypotheses about the origin of heaven and earth. They say that the universe came from a big explosion (*big bang*). They say that at the beginning there was a super small but super dense point, which then exploded to produce the sun, the earth, the moon, the planets, and the stars and the galaxies. This sounds very much like a fantastic dream, a joke even. However, this is the *beginning* in the theory of evolution, which many "smart" men believe. In reality, an explosion that can produce a laptop computer would be unthinkable and miraculous, much less one producing the whole universe.

They also believe that creatures evolve and at the end become man. Realistically, this is more akin to fiction than science, because hundreds and even thousands of years of human observation has never found a mosquito turning into a fly, or half a fly, or any percentage of a fly, and neither has there been found a fly in the process of turning into a bee, or any other creature.

Dear reader, heaven and earth is not the only proof of the existence of the Creator, the entire human history contains unmistakable hand-prints of the Creator. The history of the Jewish people is one evidence of an All-powerful Person. Study the details of the history of the Jews and you will find the presence of One who can control the flow of history.

Besides that, the conscience of man confirms the existence of the Creator. Within man there is a yearning to worship the Creator. In the times of human ignorance in the past, man worshiped great rocks, great trees, and auspicious caverns. The devil, who was previously an angel before he rebelled, knew that man wants to honor his Creator, and the devil manipulated this tendency of man by giving him all kinds of false worship. When man was no longer satisfied by serving great rocks, and instead used those rocks to build houses, the devil changed the object of worship into great images. There was even a sort of competition to build the greatest image. In my *tours* to neighboring countries, many tour guides have offered to take this writer to see what they claim to be the biggest image in their cities.

In may instances, even, the devil has proclaimed himself to be the object of worship. In West Kalimantan, there is a ritual called *Tatung*, which involves demons possessing a person, and through that person, the demon unashamedly proclaim his connection to the spirits residing in the many surrounding temples. The result of Satan's deception is very evident from the fact that so many people readily believe the existence of the devil, acknowledge his power, and not a few would even ask his favor. Those same people, would then question or deny the existence of God, Creator of heaven and earth. The devil has succeeded in replacing God with himself in the hearts of such people.

Dear reader, I hope you will be wise, and will use the mind and logic that God has given you. Seek God and believe in Him, do not be deceived by the devil with all his deceitful wiles.

The wise man will choose to believe that God exists, while the foolish says that there is no God. Why? If we believe that God exists, and after our death it turns out that God does exist, we have not lost anything in reality. However, if we believe that God does not exist, and then after our death it turns out that God truly exists, we will face His unavoidable wrath.

Dear honorable readers, let us truly be honorable men and women. Not only do we must honor our parents, we owe the most honor to our Creator. He is the One we must worship and whose directions we must seek so that we may not be deceived by the devil. We need to find which book contains His Words. It is very tragic if someone acknowledge the existence of God but then misidentify which Book is truly His Word. For is we do not find the Book that is truly the Word of God, in the end we will be deceived after all.***

WHICH BOOK IS TRULY THE WORD OF GOD?

The wisest path in a man's life is acknowledging the existence of the Creator God. This realization, however, will not lead to anything useful if it is not followed by finding His Word. Knowing that the Creator exists, but not finding His instructions and directions for life and the way to heaven, is an achievement without any conclusion.

Solomon said in Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." The statement is very true because we know that more than one book claims to be the Word of God, while their contents are directly opposite one to another. By applying just a little logic, a person can immediately conclude that the one Creator cannot give out many conflicting words. Logically, one of them is the Word of God. Because if none of them is the Word of God, then God has not spoken and cannot speak, which results in the conclusion that there is no God. On the other hand, if all of them are the Word of God, and they all contradict each other, such an option is impossible either. There is only one alternative left, that one of them is the Word of God.

Then how would a person determine that a book is the only Word of God? Quite simple and logical. First, if God, who is truth and righteousness, truly speaks, then His Word necessarily cannot have mistakes or errors. After reading many books that claim to be God's Word, this writer has found that the Bible is the only book to fulfill this criteria. For example, there is another book besides the Bible that wrote about Abraham sacrificing his son. The Bible records that Abraham sacrificed Isaac, while the other book wrote that Abraham sacrificed Ishmael. If Abraham sacrificed Ishmael, then Ishmael was the promised son, and God would work in the context of Ishmael's sons and offsprings. However, the fact is that God worked through Isaac, Isaac's son, and Isaac's grandsons, and the nation that came from Isaac. To be honest, this writer will rather believe the Bible. Forcing someone to believe what we believe, however, is a despicable act and a useless act at that. A wrong belief does not become true just because we have succeeded in forcing everyone to believe it. If someone has convinced us of an error and shown us the truth, then we better choose the side of truth.

Next, if God, who is most holy, do speak, then His Word necessarily is holy and teaches the highest moral standards. After comparing various books, this writer has found that the Bible teaches the highest moral standard. No other book teaches man to love his enemies, to love his neighbor like himself, and even to do unto other what we want others to do unto us. Some people criticizes the Bible for its record of various sins and atrocities. But we must learn to differentiate between what the Bible records and what it teaches. When the Bible records the greatness of David's faith, the Bible also records the fatal mistake of David, who murdered and took another man's wife. The Bible though, never teaches that a person may take another man's wife, instead teaching that a man may only have one wife, and a woman may only have one husband. The Bible teaches this fact, and if we are not to be adulterous on earth, much more in heaven? Then, if there is record of a believer committing adultery, of if a Christian commits adultery, that proves that some Christians do not obey the Bible, not that the Bible teaches adultery.

The Bible is also a book that shows itself to be the word of an all-knowing God. No other book proves itself to come from omniscient God. To understand this we must know that the Bible is divided into two big sections, the Old Testament (OT), and the New Testament (NT). The Old Testament was written from 1500 BC until about 400 BC, while the New Testament was written from about 35 AD until 98 AD. So, the Old Testament books were already written 400 years before Jesus was born, while the New Testament books were written after Jesus returned to heaven.

Why is it called the Old Testament? Because it contains promises, or covenants, and because new covenants later would come. What covenant? The covenant from God to man that He will send a Savior to save man who has fallen into sin.

So, since mankind fell into sin, man cannot approach the thrice-holy God or to enter holy heaven. To approach the most-holy God, man must be holy and totally sinless. This means that sin must be taken out of the picture. The difference between Christianity and all other religions is that the various religions teach that the solution so sin is through good works (alms, rituals, etc.), but the Bible clearly teaches that sin can only be annulled through punishment. Once again, sin is taken care of through punishment.

Because sin must be punished by the justice of God, God **promised** to send a Savior. The Savior will be a sinless person, born of a woman. If he is a sinful man, then he cannot be the savior of other sinful men, because he himself must receive punishment for his sins. Can an angel be sent to become the Savior to receive man's punishments? Of course not!

God revealed His love, in that He Himself, emptied Himself, and by the Holy Spirit entered the womb of Mary, to be born as a sinless man, to bear the punishment for mankind's sin. This is the way that God had chosen, that is in accord with all His characters. He is a Holy God, a Righteous God, and a Loving God. The way of salvation from God has to harmonize with His characters.

The amazing thing is that the Bible records that fulfillment of God's promise (covenant) to send a Savior born of a woman. In short, the Savior cam from the seed of Abraham. That means it was impossible that the Savior was a Chinese or a Javanese, because Chinese and Javanese are not offsprings of Abraham. Furthermore, 2000 years before the Savior's birth, it was prophesied that He will come from the line of Judah. About a thousand years before His birth, the prophet wrote that the Savior will come from the line of David. It becomes increasingly clear here that Abraham meant to sacrifice Isaac, not Ishmael, because the Savior or Messiah came not from the line of Ishmael, but from Isaac.

That there may not be any mistakes, the prophet Micah wrote about six hundred years before the birth of Jesus, that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:1). This means that a person born in Jakarta, even if he is a descendant of David, cannot be the Savior God meant. The prophet Isaiah wrote seven hundred years before Jesus was born that the Savior will be born of a virgin. The prophet Zechariah wrote four hundred years prior of Jesus that the Savior would enter Jerusalem riding a young donkey. Zechariah even wrote that He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. Dr. Herbert Lockyer listed about three hundred (300) items about the Messiah or Savior that the Old Testament predicted or wrote about, hundreds or even thousands of years before His coming.

The Bible has proven itself to be the Word of the righteous God, the holy God, and the all-knowing God. At around the year 30 AD, when Jesus said that the Jerusalem temple will be destroyed, He was criticized. In the year 70 AD, however, about thirty years after that prophecy, the Holy Temple was destroyed by General Titus from Rome.

The Bible is the only written Word of God (written revelation), and it is fixed and definite. After the writing of the book of Revelation, God does not give more special revelation. If more new revelation were to be given, then the Bible will become only one of the Words of God. And, if the process of revelation was not stopped, then until now there will be no definite and fixed Word of God. However, we know that any new *revelation* and *inspiration* was stopped after the revelation at the island of Patmos around the end of the first century. Now the Holy Spirit works by enlightening, giving *illumination*, to truth-seekers who read the Bible. There is no more new prophecy, tongues, and various other forms of revelation from God. The Bible is the only guide from God, Creator of heaven and earth. Only through the Bible will man receive direction from the Creator.

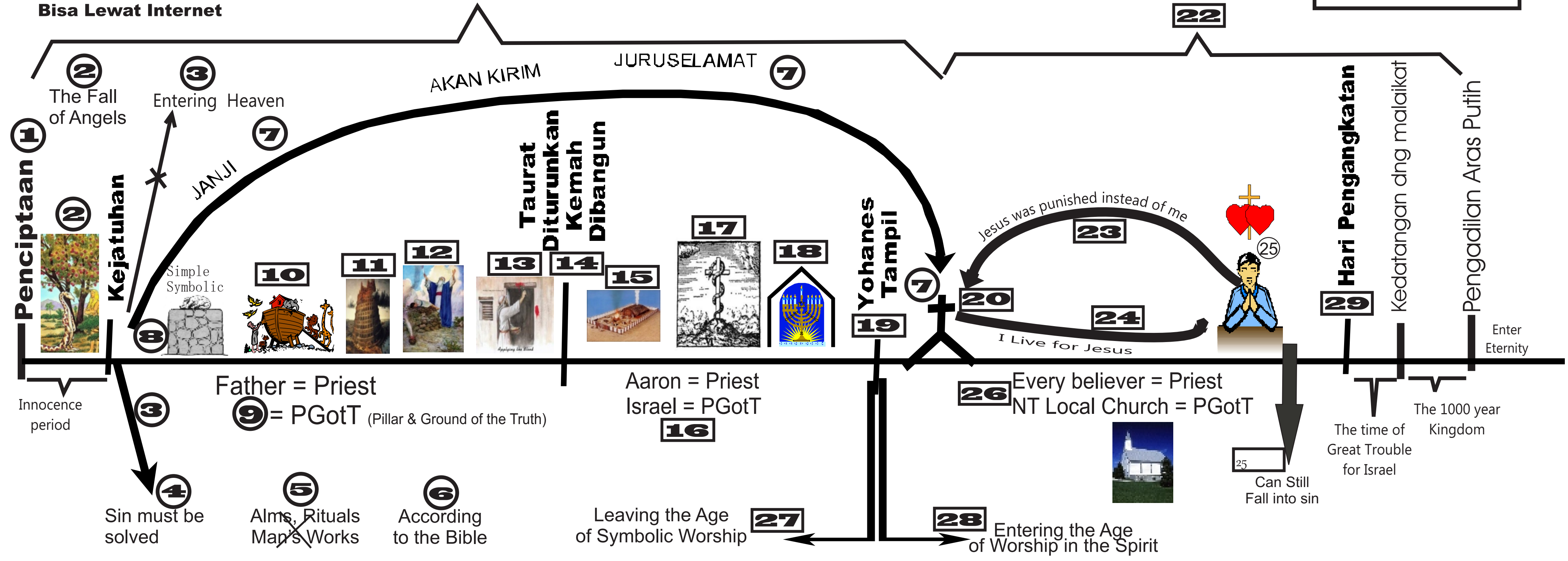
Dear wise readers, to believe a book to be the Word of God, or not, is no small thing. It has to do with eternity in Heaven or in Hell. Let it not be that because of tradition, of being born in certain beliefs, a person follows blindly the wrong path. Instead, he or she must truly seek and study, give attention and meditate on this very important issue.***

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DIVINE MYSTERY
FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING

Ephesians 3:1 - 11

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The above chart conveys to the reader the main message of the Bible. Readers will understand God's salvation program for man. Apostle Paul called it the mystery which from the beginning of the world has been hidden in God (Eph.3:9)

The Apostle Paul called his teaching "the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hidden in God" (Eph. 3:9). Therefore, I have called this series of explanation as *The Divine Mystery from Everlasting to Everlasting.* This is the conclusion of all the verses in the Bible coupled with reason. God created our minds, and He also gave us the Bible as His Word. The religion (faith) which makes the most sense is the true way, and the most biblical expression of Christianity must make the best sense. Investigate this, and if you run into trouble, please contact GITS. The explanation has been given in order of numbers to make it systematic and neat and easy to understang. This is the essence of the Bible, which in turn is the essence of Christianity. First is a time line or an age-line. We see the passage of time and symbolize it by drawing a straight horizontal line.

1 **Creation**. God created the universe. God created two types of beings as persons, given thinking minds, conscience, and free will. These two are angels and mankind. God does not wish to be worshipped by robots, but by persons who can freely choose. They can choose to obey Him or disobey Him. If from their free heart they choose to obey God, that satisfies the Creator. God put the angels in Heaven and man on earth. Then, God placed the tree of life, whose fruit can be eaten, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, whose fruit was forbidden, as the symbols of the two alternatives before them. If they were to take a positive attitude towards God, they can express it by eating from the tree of life. But, if they were to take a negative attitude towards God, they will express it by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The free will that God bestowed upon man and angels is a decree of God, and unchangable because God cannot deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13). Creating persons, instead of robots, certainly carries risks. However, despite the risks, we surely are happier as persons instead of robots.

2 In the heart of certain angels, an evil intention occurs against God, and they wanted to dethrone God. Of course they will be destroyed, and before they are destroyed, to differentiate them from the good angels, they are given new designations, demons, with Satan (meaning adverary) as their head. They know that there is another being who can be seduced to side with them. Eve was deceived into believing Satan's words instead of God's words. She ate from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This was an expression of an evil heart. This was the moment of man's fall into sin. They believed the devil, which means liar, rather than God.

3 Sinful man cannot enter heaven, because heaven is a most holy place. Sinful man cannot approach God because God is most holy. Because mankind believe the devil's word, they will be punished with the devil. The punishment is death, precisely as God had said that if they eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they will die and go to the place prepared for the devil.

4 If man wants to go to heaven, then man's sin problem must be solved. The devil continues to deceive man by teaching various ways of solving sin through man's effort (alms and rituals, etc.).

5 Sin cannot be solved by doing good deeds, religious rituals, or man's work. If man can take care of sin by himself, that would mean that man enters heaven by his own merit. Almost all religion teach that the solution to sin is by man's efforts.

6 The Bible teaches that sin can only be atoned by punishment. Rom. 6:23 says "the wages of sin is death." **This is the essence of difference between Christianity and all other religions on earth. Almost all other religions teach that sin is solved by human work or action. But the Bible teaches that sin is solved through punishment**.

7 Because sin can only be solved by punishment, then the way of salvation from God, which does not contradict His justice and His holiness, is through the punishment of sin. Therefore, God immediately promised to send a Saviour, to be born of a woman, who will crush the serpent's head (symbolic language to denote defeat of the devil). The stage is set for the Saviour to come to bear the punishment in the place of mankind who has fallen into sin. The Saviour will bear the penalty of man's (Adam's) sin.

8 Adam has to repent, turn from his attitude of believing the devil. And in order to be saved, Adam has to believe in God's promise. If Adam wanted his sins to counted as already punished in the Saviour, who was STILL TO COME, he had to believe in that COMING SAVIOUR. As a sign (symbol) that Adam believed, he then had to build an altar, and slay an animal to symbolize the Saviour, upon that altar. Adam was also to teach this truth to his children. Abel did exactly as his father (Adam) taught him, but Cain rebelled by not using an animal (a lamb), but instead he used crops and vegetables. Of course vegetables cannot symbolize the Saviour. For the atonement of their sin, Adam and all mankind who lived before the crucifixion of Christ, must repent and believe in the Saviour, who was coming to take their place of punishment.

9 In that age, fathers functioned as priests, and also as the Pillar and Ground of the Truth (PGotT) for his family. Fathers must teach this substitutionary truth to his posterity. People today who teach the building of family altars are mistaken. The age of family altars was from Adam to Aaron.

10 As time goes by, more and more fathers became evil, no longer reminding their children about God's promise, to the point that in Noah's days, all men were evil. Because the amount of righteous men were no longer significant to reach the world of evil men, God destroyed mankind. Noah still remembered God's promise. When he came out of the ark, the first thing he did was to build an altar and sacrificed an animal (lamb). God was pleased and He blessed the earth because man had remembered His promise.

11 But when it came to Nimrod's time, the grandson of Ham, man was evil once again because they have forgotten God's promise. Nimrod led the building of the tower of Babel, to reach God. God confused their language so that the tower was not completed, and they were scattered according to their respective language groups. Finally, there were no more fathers faithful to God, functioning as a priest and as the pillar and ground of the truth (PGotT) for his family.

12 Then God decided to build a nation that will function to guard the symbolic worship which will remind mankind of God's promise. Abraham was chosen, and through him the Jewish nation. And they were prepared for the task by serving as slaves for about 400 years in Egypt.

13 When the time came, the Jewish nation were delivered. Pharoah was not willing to let them go. After nine plagues, Pharoah still hardened his heart in refusing them. Finally the tenth plague was prepared. God will kill all the firstborn in Egypt. Those who do not wish to lose their firstborn must kill a lamb, and the blood must be smeared on their door posts, the right and left posts, and also the upper door post, forming a cross. Clearly this refers to the Lamb of God in preparation, Jesus. This occurred abound year 1500 BC. Through the sacrifice of the Lamb, they went out of Egypt.

14 At long last, the Jews arrived on Mount Sinai. There they were formally adopted as a unique nation, and given the task of guarding the symbolic worship, which is to remind mankind of God's promise. The Torah Law was given as their constitution, and the Tabernacle of symbolic worship was erected. Israel was the Pillar and Ground of the Truth.

15 The symbolic worship was made more complete and orderly, by the construction of the tabernacle. Israel is responsible for broadcasting to other nations about God's promise to send a Saviour for man.

16 The priesthood of fathers were stopped, replaced by the priesthood of Aaron. The function of fathers as the PGotT was given to Israel. The age of family altars ended. Since that time, fathers no longer bless their children. This event occurred around year 1500 BC.

17 On their way to Canaan, they were many times disobedient, and the Lord sent serpents to bite them and many died. Moses prayed and God told Moses to make a brass serpent, and to lift it up upon a stake. Whosoever did not want to die of the snake bite, he must look upon the snake lifted up. Jesus Christ explained to Nicodemus, in John 3:14, "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." Today, a serpent upon a stick becomes the symbol of health, used in apothecaries, and even WHO.

18 The Israelites arrived in Canaan, and they must keep the symbolic worship and must invite all nations to believe on God Jehovah while waiting for the promised Saviour. The time of Solomon became the time of their best testimony. The Temple of God was built, and that was the first time direction for prayer was proscribed. Jews should pray towards the Temple in Jerusalem. The function of this direction for prayer is that all nations must look towards Jerusalem because from thence the promised Saviour will come.

19 The John the Baptist came and pointed to the Saviour (John 1:29). He introduced the Saviour, long promised by God since Adam and Eve. The Lamb of God which takes the sins of the world by offering himself as the bearer of punishment. The essence of all Old Testament symbolic worship has come.

20 The crucifixion of Christ was punishment for the sin of the whole world, previously symbolized by the slaying of lambs (7) & (8) (1 Pet. 1:18-19, I Joh.2:2, Heb.2:9). The sin caused by Adam is finished (Rom. 5:18-19). Babies and those born with mental deficiencies will go to heaven if they die in their state. Every man (from Adam to the last human) who reaches the age of accountability must repent and believe on the Saviour (the Christ), so that all his/her sins be reckoned by God as punished already upon the person of the Saviour.

21 & **22** Old Testament people (Adam for instance) would be saved by repenting and putting faith upon the Saviour who WAS COMING. Meanwhile, people in the New Testament (you for instance), will be saved by repenting and putting faith upon the Saviour who HAS COME. Repenting means admitting that one is a sinner and regret those sins. Acknowledge that You yourself should have been punished, but the Saviour HAS been punished in your stead. Jesus took over your sinful position and was punished, and He gives you His holy position. So, you only need to repent and agree that the Saviour has been punished replacing you, and you now live in His place (live for Him). Only those who agree that Jesus died for him, and that he lives for Jesus, will surely go to heaven. Those who do not believe will stay in their sin and will go to the place prepared for the devil, which is hell.

23 Every man must repent and agree with God that Jesus has been punished to bear all his sins, and agree to live for Jesus. This is a spiritual transaction. From Adam until the last man, no one can enter heaven without Jesus (Joh. 14:6).

24 The believer gains the position of Jesus, which is holy, and consequently is then called holy men, or saints. The Holy Spirit also indwells him, and his heart becomes holy. But he does not yet have holy characters. The holy position and holy heart will get him to heaven, but his holy position is important for witnessing on earth.

25 Christians can still fall into sin. But because Jesus has replaced him, as long as he does not recant on his belief and denied Jesus, he is still a saint before God the Father. He will face the Judgment Seat of Christ (the Bema of Christ) to give an account of everything he did.

26 The priesthood of Aaron was stopped and now every believer is a priest, moreover a royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9). No one must elevate himself to be priests over other Christians, this is not biblical christianity. No one can raise his hand to bless the people nor should anyone come to any "priest" to be blessed. This includes the so-called blessing at the end of church service, because these are priestly practices. Pastors do not bless marriages, we confirm marriages. The local church functions as the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, replacing Israel. The family altar period is ended.

27 The Law of Moses was fulfilled, not annulled (Luk. 16:16; Mat. 11:13) and the whole symbolic worship package, like the name of Jehovah, the Sabbath day, unclean food, leprosy as symbol of the curse, the rituals of worship in the Temple, all these have finished their functions. That is why the New Testament no longer uses the name Jehovah, and there is no longer any special day to worship or honor God (Sabbath). Also, there is no more unclean food (Mar. 7:19).

28 Forthwith, man is instructed to worship is essence, in spirit, and in truth (Heb. 10:1; John 4:23). Christians do not need building permit to worship because Christians worship God all the time, and in all places, in their heart, not with their bodies. Sunday mornings are actually the activity of coming together as a church, not a "worship." To call what we do each Sunday as "worship" shows influence form other religions, and stems from a lack of understanding about true Christian worship, which is in spirit and in truth. There is no obligatory body posture, obligatory time, or place. There is no need for a special place for worship. We have entered the age of true worship until the day of rapture (29), a promise from God to catch believers up to be with Him, part of the promises in the NT.***

Thus is the short explanation the *Divine Mystery from Everlasting to Everlasting*, based upon Bible verses. Have you ackowledge yourself as a sinner? Have you acknowledged that Jesus replaced you and was punished, and that you are living for him? Has not the historical proof, since Noah, Abraham, and the event of the uplifted brass serpent convinced you?

If you are not yet assembling in a local church, you should do so. Because you must remain faithful until death, or until Jesus comes to pick us up. You must find a church with true doctrinal teachings. If you assemble in a church teaching heresy, the biblical truth in these pages will slowly be erased. If you want to know the address of a good church in your location, contact us from our contact information on the first page, or through the internet. May the Lord bless you.***